

# THE SCOOP

With Representative Linda Koop



March 2015

Issue 3

## Appropriations Committee - TRS Care

The House Appropriations chairman Rep. John Otto announced last Wednesday that the House will continue to "fully fund" health care for hundreds of thousands of retired public school teachers. "This issue is too important to go unaddressed," said State Rep. John Otto.

The health care plan covering more than 250,000 people, called TRS-Care, is on track to become insolvent during the upcoming fiscal year. This funding from the Legislature would prevent the retirement system from hiking premiums or cutting their benefits.

Linda who sits on the Appropriations Committee said, "I am committed to our educators and will continue to fight for them. This was simply the right decision to make."

On a side note, all you retired teachers be sure to thank Ms. Tonna Duke next time you see her. Tonna has worked tirelessly representing you in Austin.

## Border Security

Last week Linda co-authored HB-11 or the "Stronger Border, Safer Texas" bill which was introduced by Rep. Dennis Bonnen. "Border Security is the number one issue I hear about within the community," said Representative Koop.

**Key provisions of House Bill 11 include:**

## Richardson Day at the Capitol



Thank You to Richardson Mayor Laura Maczka and Councilmembers Mark Solomon and Scott Dunn for stopping by the office.

## RISD Board



Big Thank You to RISD Board Members Kim Caston, Lanet Greenhaw and Justin Bono for stopping by the office!

## Garland Day



Garland Mayor Doug Athas celebrated Garland Day at the

- Hiring of certified police officers at the DPS Trooper II level and authorizing 10 hour work days for DPS Troopers serving in the border region, ending the current practice of periodically shifting officers from other parts of the state.
- Creating a DPS Officer Reserve Corps of retired officers who will assist police statewide with background investigations, sex offender compliance checks and other duties.
- Imposing tougher penalties for smugglers, and classifying human smuggling as organized crime.
- Cutting the cartels' supply lines with new southbound checkpoints within 250 yards of the border to curb the flow of stolen vehicles, guns and money from being smuggled into Mexico.
- Establishing a multiagency border crime information center in the Rio Grande Valley led by local law enforcement with assistance from DPS.
- Requiring law enforcement entities to adopt the National Incident Based Reporting System to ensure the uniformity of crime data throughout the state.



### **HB-1721 The Disabled Parking Bill**

Our office is working with the City of Dallas and the Dallas Police Department on HB-1721. This bill amends both the Texas Transportation Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure to allow for civil citations to be issued for disabled parking violations. These changes would help support the efforts of the Dallas Police and its volunteers such as Dallas' own Citizens Helping in Parking Solutions or "CHIPS."

CHIPS volunteers are trained to identify handicap parking violations and issue citations to violators within the City of Dallas. The purpose of the program is to increase awareness of the challenges facing the disabled and to ensure handicap parking spaces are available when needed.

Teri Hornberger, a volunteer with CHIPS, said, "HB 1721 will lead to an increase in enforcement against violators and help ensure that our disabled citizens are protected."



### **Contact Us**

Please feel free to contact my office anytime. You can reach us by:

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If you are in Austin please stop by our Capitol office which is located in the Capitol extension in room E1-512. We'd love to see you!

Capitol last week. Linda was very happy to see you all down in Austin!!

### **Councilwoman Gates**



Linda ran into Dallas City Councilwoman Jennifer Gates and her daughter Jordan. Jennifer was in town testifying on behalf of Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings domestic violence initiatives.

### **UTD President Dr. Daniels**



University of Texas Dallas is a prime example of what makes District 102 the best in the State.

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